

[PRICE, \$2½ PER MONTH.]

Intimation

PRISON THEATRE.
THEATRE DRAMATICO COMPANY
OF H.M.S. "Midas" will give
FREE PERFORMANCES,
FRIDAY EVENING, January 5th,
and MONDAY, January 8th.
"GAINED FOR THE DEFENCE."
"AND THIS IS THE STORY"

THE AREA BE

open at 8.30 P.M. Performance to
ce at 9.
may be obtained at the R. A. Con-
Sergeant's Mess, and H. M.S. "Midea."
SSION:—Front Seats, 81; Second Seats,
; Back Seats, 25 Cents.

FOR TAKA

German Schooner
"BENEDIOTA"
Master, will be despatched as above
ERROW, the 6th instant, at Day light.
Freight or Passage, apply to
WM. PUSTAU & Co.,

ATOW. AMOY. A

"DOUGLAS,"
 Barque, will be despatched for the
 ports on SUNDAY, the 7th instant, at
 10 o'clock.
 Freight or Passage, apply to
 DOUGLAS LAFITTE & Co.
 Longkong, 4th January, 1877.
 LONDON, via SUEZ CANAL,
 calling at SINGAPORE and PENANG.
 Steamship
 "ATLANTA"

the 18th instant,
eight apply to

JARDINE, MATHEWSON & Co
Longkong, 5th January, 1877.

FOR MANILA.

Spanish Brig

"SAN LORENZO,"

Master, will have quick despatch for the
 Freight or Passage, applying to
J. H. MATHIOS & Co.
Longkong, 5th January, 1877.

NOTICE.

IVE Re-established myself as a **GENERAL MERCHANT AND COMMISSION**
Agent, and have taken over the Business of
JOHN T. MILLSHOP at all the Ports and the
 and Establishments will be carried on
 the Firm and Style of **MILLSHOP & Co.**
J. MILLSHOP.

O'U'N G,
SHIP CARPENTER

AT-BUILDER, CARPENTER, AND PAINTER
 WEEB AND BUCKLEY the City "Beat,"
 Winner at the late Regatta.
 No. 235, QUEEN'S ROAD,
 Nearly opposite No. 7, Police Station.
 *A CARD.
 F. D. SILVA,
 GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT,
 TAKAO and TAIWANCOO.
 856 Takao, November, 1976.

Notices to Consignees.

 CONSIGNEES OF OPTIONAL CARGO,
 X C 8 3 S O O 3 S S D R O M E D,
 FROM LIVERPOOL.

Undersigned not
shipment per Steno

NOTICE
SOUTHERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents,
25, Hongkong, 22nd January, 1877.

STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

SIGNESSES per Company's Steamer
DIXON are hereby notified that the
being discharged into (raft, and loaded
will be of the Underwriter; in both
cases the Consignees risk. The Cargo
is to be delivered at the wharf of the
Company and after the 1st January, 1877,
the undelivered after the 8th January,
will be subject to Rent.

SOUTHERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents,
25, Hongkong, 22nd January, 1877.

NOTICE
To British Barque Owners, from Ant-
werp, Consignees of Cargo by the above-
Vessel are requested to send in their

ture, and to take in
noda.

[illegible]

AFTERNOON.

Wm. PUSTAU & Co.
Agents,
Hongkong, 2d January, 1877.
**AMERICAN SHIPMENT WASHINGTON,
FROM HAMBURG.**
DISCHARGEES of Cargo per American Ship
Washington, Portine, Master, from
Hamburg, are requested to take immediately
of their Goods from alongside.
On impeding the discharge will be landed
on board at total expense.
The Agents of Lading will be countersigned by *
Wm. PUSTAU & Co.
Agents.
Hongkong, 2d December, 1876.
**STEAMSHIP "ELIZON."
COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES
MARITIMES**

NOTICE
SIGNERS of Car

Express, from London, in connection
 the above Steamer, are hereby informed
 their Goods are being landed, and red at
 the Company's Godown, whence
 may be obtained immediately after
 Noon. Charge will be forwarded on unless
 received from the Consignee be-
 SATURDAY, the 30th instant, at 10 A.M.,
 stating it to be landed here.
 of Lading will be contravened by the
 and remaining unclaimed after SATUR-
 the 6th January, at Noon, will be sub-
 rent and landing charges.
 Fire Insurance has been effected.
 H. R. FOUVEY,
 Agent.
 Hongkong, 25th December, 1874.

NOW READY FOR SALE. **THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY** FOR 1877. (With which is incorporated "THE CHINA DIRECTORY.")

This Comprehensive Work, now in the FIFTEENTH YEAR of its existence, has been compiled from the BEST AND MOST RELIABLE SOURCES, and so pains have been spared to render it COMPLETE in EVERY RESPECT.

- It contains—
- THE DIRECTORY FOR HONGKONG.
 - THE DIRECTORY FOR CANTON.
 - THE DIRECTORY FOR WHAMPOA.
 - THE DIRECTORY FOR MACAO.
 - THE DIRECTORY FOR HOIHOW.
 - THE DIRECTORY FOR SHANGHAI.
 - THE DIRECTORY FOR CHINKIANG.
 - THE DIRECTORY FOR KIUKIANG.
 - THE DIRECTORY FOR HANKOW.
 - THE DIRECTORY FOR CHEFOO.
 - THE DIRECTORY FOR TAKU.
 - THE DIRECTORY FOR TIENTSIN.
 - THE DIRECTORY FOR NEWCHANG.
 - THE DIRECTORY FOR PEKING.
 - THE DIRECTORY FOR JAPAN.
 - THE DIRECTORY FOR PHILIPPINES.
 - THE DIRECTORY FOR SAIGON.
 - THE DIRECTORY FOR HAIPHONG.
 - THE DIRECTORY FOR HANOI.
 - THE DIRECTORY FOR SINGAPORE.
 - THE DIRECTORY FOR BANGKOK.

With brief descriptions of Hongkong, the Treaty Ports of China, Japan, and the Philippines. It also includes a mass of useful information in addition to that usually found in works of the kind.

The latest Directory outside the different Treaties and Conventions made by China and Japan with foreign countries, together with various Acts, Ordinances, and Regulations relating to Commerce and Shipping.

It is further embellished with a Chronological Table of the

PLAN OF VICTORIA, HONGKONG, & THE FOREIGN SETTLEMENTS OF SHANGHAI.

A Chromo-lithograph Plate of the NEW CODE OF SIGNALS in use at the PEAK.

Also of the various ROADS, FLAGS, & COATS OF ARMS (Designed expressly for the World), and

MAPS OF HONGKONG, JAPAN, &c. The Chronicle and Directory is the only publication of its kind for China and Japan, and it will be found invaluable to all Public, Mercantile, and General Offices.

It is published in two forms—Complete at 50c, and the Library Edition, Port Director, Maps, &c., at 85c.

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- SINGAPORE.....Messrs. Wilson, Mitchell & Co.
- BANGKOK.....Messrs. Wilson, Mitchell & Co.

NOTICE.

A. S. WATSON AND CO.

FAMILY AND DISPENSING CHEMISTS.

By Appointment to His Excellency the Governor and his Royal Highness the

DUKE OF EDINBURGH.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS, FERRARIS.

PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS, DRUGGISTS, SYDNEY.

And

ABRATED WATER MAKERS.

SHIPS MEDICINE CHESTS REFITTED. PASSENGER'S BILLS SUPPLIED.

NOTICE.—To avoid delay in the execution of Orders it is particularly requested that all business communications be addressed to the

Firm, A. S. WATSON AND CO., or

827 HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JANUARY 5th, 1877.

The Blue Book containing the Commercial Reports of Her Majesty's Consuls in China for the year 1875 has just come to hand. As far as the statistics are concerned, they have been forestalled by the Chinese Reports on trade which were issued some time ago and reviewed in these columns. The remarks made by the Consuls on different features of trade are, however, in some cases new, or else shed fresh light on old subjects, and these are well worthy of reproduction and comment. Sir Brooke Robinson's report for Canton contains, perhaps, the largest quantity of information. Some interesting facts about opium from it will be found in another column. The Consul believes, as indeed he has good reason for doing, that the cultivation of the poppy is on the increase

in China. He also expresses a very decided opinion that the native produce has checked the increase of the import of the Indian drug. This is probable, but whether the check will prove a permanent one or not is another matter. So far, there has been no decrease, but a small increase in the import of Indian varieties. Still, if the Chinese paid more attention to the preparation of the drug it is possible that the home grown article might advance in favor with consumers. Sir Brooke considers that it is a mistake to suppose that the stoppage of the Indian supply would affect the consumption of opium in China. "It might," he says, "for a time cause some inconvenience to those who prefer it to the native product, but only for a time, for the habit of smoking the drug is so deeply seated as to have become a necessity with a large section of the people, and the Government is wise enough not to interfere with it, beyond the issue of warnings." This is a truth which cannot be too strongly impressed upon the anti-opium agitators who ignorantly assume that if the supply of the drug from India ceased it would be followed by the discontinuance of the habit of smoking. A greater mistake could scarcely be made.

Two other subjects are touched upon by Sir Brooke Robinson which are of great importance to British merchants and manufacturers. The first is the circumstance, often commented on, that the import trade in foreign goods has passed in a large degree into the hands of the Chinese to the exclusion of foreigners. When the value of this trade, which in 1874 footed up to the respectable sum of £3,250,000 sterling, is mentioned, some idea may be formed of the importance of what is being lost by foreigners. The Consul for Canton, like other people, finds it difficult to suggest a remedy for this state of affairs. Foreigners, he says—unless some great change comes over them—can never compete with the Chinese on an economical basis. This is true enough, their expenses being so much heavier, and their style of living so different. The Chinese, moreover, as he remarks, wield a formidable weapon in their power of combination, while foreigners not only cannot, or rather will not, combine, but play into the hands of the Chinese by bidding against each other, with the result that every year shows a decrease of foreign and an increase of native firms. Sir Brooke Robinson goes on to observe that "foreigners have little else left to them than the export trade, and when this may even be monopolized by, as he says, said to be a mere question of time." For some time past rumors have been afloat to the effect that Chinese agents were to be despatched to England to open business houses in London and Manchester, and he does not reason why they should not ultimately succeed in establishing themselves there and do their own business in Europe. If they could not absorb the whole of the export trade, they would, he considers, formidable competitors for a large share of it, and English merchants will have to look to competition within their own territory. "Such a change, however," he continues, "is not likely to be made so long as the tea-producers and brokers reap the harvest there and from competitive prices. It better suits the tea and silk merchants and those behind them to have foreigners bidding against each other, and giving prices that could not be realized in the home market. The question of this when, therefore, is not so difficult to determine as at first sight appears; it means where the present ruinous mode of doing business ceases, then the Chinese, seeing there is nothing more to be got out of foreign competition, will try what they can do for themselves." It is strange that, in the face of such plain facts and such obvious deductions, British merchants will not abstain from needless and suicidal competition. Combination can only be met by combination, and unless they alter their course of action, they must eventually be driven out of the field. Warnings, unfortunately, are unheeded; bitter experience does not bring wisdom; the British merchants are infatuated on this point.

The other point on which Sir Brooke Robinson calls attention is the deteriorated and loaded quality of Manchester goods, particularly shirtings, now manufactured. "If," he says, "they could be passed off on the Chinese as all cotton and of good fabric it might be called a gross imposition; but as the people are by no means easy to deceive, and know perfectly well the composition of a piece of goods the moment they see or handle it, it seems unnecessary why such a system should be persevered in, for if a really good article costs more to produce, it will fetch more on sale, while, conversely, a really bad one—unless through the ignorance of the purchasers—will fetch less; but possibly there may be some profits realized on the latter unknown to the unluckily." There is no doubt that weaving and dressing of cotton goods by the Lancashire manufacturers has a most injurious effect upon trade. This fact has been again and again insisted upon, and a regard for their own interests might, it would be supposed, have induced the manufacturers to add to their attention to believe that honesty is the best policy. In some parts of China foreign piece goods, which at one time enjoyed a very high reputation, have fallen greatly out of request on this account, and a fresh stimulus has been given to native manufactures. Mr. Pendergast, Acting Consul at Ningpo, states in his report on the trade of that port that he had been informed that the native cotton manufacturers had largely increased of late. "The province of Chekiang," he says, "is to be every way suited for the growth of cotton, and there can be little doubt that the disgust occasioned by the inferior description of manufactured cotton introduced into the country of late years has given a powerful stimulus, not alone to native production, but also to native manufactures." It should be remembered, too, that as the Chinese have commenced importing machinery for other purposes they may also be induced to obtain it for cotton mills, in which case Manchester goods would stand a good chance of being beaten out of the field in China altogether. The folly of manufacturing piece goods cannot be too severely condemned. It serves no purpose, since it falls even to impart a fictitious value to the cloth and at the same time is productive of mischief, by which

large quantities of goods are frequently spoiled and have to be sold at a great sacrifice, causing serious loss to the importer. This, indeed, times that the Lancashire manufacturers would mend their ways. They are, by this foolish and shortsighted policy, inviting opposition, which may in time be fatal to their hold on the Chinese market. It has been shaken already, and in these days of competition no one can afford to be indifferent to any sign of decline.

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